XAAZ - 22427 31 Jul 64

BY SR/CI/RESEARCH early COMPISSION

"LENGTH OF TIME REQUIRED FOR OBTAINING SOVIET TOURIST VISAS IN
HELSINKI AND STOCKHOLM, 1964" See ×AA2-22

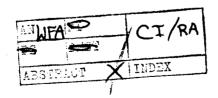
for chronological listing.

A memo from the Commission to CIA dated25 May 1964 inquired after information relating to the relatively showt period of time in which OSWAID acquired a tourist visa in Helsinki. The first attached item, a memo to the Commission dated 1 July 1964, provides such information as we could obtain on OSWAID's reconstructed timetable for travel from London to Helsinki. The second attached item, dated 31 July 1964, provides comments on length of time required to obtain a tourist visa in Helsinki and Stockholm.

For further information on these items, see:

Lee H. Wigren Jane Curtis

Document Number 781-34/
for FOIA Review on JUN 1976



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31 July 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

General Counsel

President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy

SUBJECT

: Length of Time Required for Obtaining Soviet Tourist Visas in Helsinki and Stockholm, 1964

NOT AU NITHE

- 1. In response to a telephone inquiry made in July 1964 concerning the time required for issuance of a Soviet visa for a US businessman, the Soviet consul in Helsinki stated that he could issue a transit visa (valid for 24 hours) is five minutes but that for a langer stay he would need about a week to process a visa application and have Inturist arrange for lodgings. He implied that the main reason for delays in visa issuances was a shortage of hotel space in the USSR.
- 2. A Finaish travel agency representative said in July 1964 that he is able to obtain Seviet tourist visas for his customers within live days if he pushes the matter.
- 3. A telephone check with the Soviet consulate in Stockholm in July 1964 revealed that normal visa processing there takes seven days but that this can be shortened to five days 'in exceptional cases. " The Soviet official receiving the telephone call stated that it was impossible to get a visa within two or three days.

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/4. A Soviet official

to: FOIA Review on JUN 1976

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Mark Strain

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See Sanitized File 11

Number

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4. A Soviet official in Stockholm indicated in early 1964 that visa processing for foreigners wishing to visit the USSR normally takes six to eight days in Stockholm but that visas for Swedish businessmen and other personalities of special interest (not defined) can be processed directly by the Soviet embassy in Stockholm without referral to Moscow.

Richard Heims Deputy Director for Plans

Distribution:

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